

World Christian Fellowship

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Kingdom of God

Kingdom defined as "the sovereign rule of a king over territory (domain), impacting it with his will, purpose, and intent."

Biblically "kingdom" used by Jesus refers to

- ✓ God's government,
- ✓ God's rulership, and
- ✓ God's dominion over the earth.

The Kingdom of God means

- God's will be executed,
- Gods' jurisdiction,
- > Heaven's influence,
- > God's administration, and
- God's impact and influence.

An Illustration of the Kingdom of God, here on earth, would be the United Kingdom Embassy in a foreign land. The Embassy is considered a piece of British, governed by UK in a different country.

At this present time God's Kingdom here on earth is a spiritual one!

Where God reigns in the hearts and lives of those that have accepted His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and are submitting to HIS Lordship.

As Christians we can be likened to the U.K. Embassy!

We are governed by God, but we live in a world where Satan still rules in the hearts and lives of unbelievers who are living in darkness. The good news is that Jesus Christ made it possible to escape from Satan's grasp and to enter the Kingdom of God, by the new birth.

As Ambassadors, this is the message that we proclaim to the citizens of this lost world.

While on earth, Jesus Christ exercised the authority of God's Kingdom, as demonstrated power in the casting out of demons, healing the sick, raising the dead and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom.

Religion always works against the Kingdom of God.

Religion is what man does until he finds the Kingdom.

- ✓ Religion prepares man to leave earth
- ✓ Kingdom empowers man to dominate earth.
- Religion focuses on Heaven
- Kingdom focuses on earth.

- Religion is reaching up to God
- o Kingdom is God reaching up to us.
- Religion wants to escape earth
- Kingdom impacts, influences, and changes earth.
- ✓ Religion seeks to take earth to Heaven
- ✓ Kingdom seeks to bring Heaven to earth.

Jesus addressed the religious leaders of His day so strongly when He said in

Matthew 23:13 &15, "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

¹⁵ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Matthew 15:1-3, Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, ² "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?

Matthew 15:6, then he need not honour his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

Matthew 5:20, For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 21:31, Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

Religion is one of the greatest obstacles to the Kingdom

Ministry of Jesus

1. The Kingdom Preached

Matthew 3:1-2, In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 4:17, From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

2. The Kingdom has arrived/come

Matthew 12:28, But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

3. The Kingdom within you

Luke 17:21, nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

4. Characteristics of the Kingdom

Romans 14:17, for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

5. The beginning of end of Satan

John 12:31, Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 16:11, of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

6. Mysteries of the Kingdom

Matthew 13:11, He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Many of the Mysteries that were hidden in the scriptures, have been divinely revealed with the first coming of Jesus Christ.

- a) The mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 13:3-50)
- b) The mystery of Israel's blindness. (Romans ch.11)
- c) The mystery of the church, as one body, (Ephesians 3:1-12, 6:19 Colossians 4:3)

- d) The mystery of the church, as the bride of Christ. (Ephesians 5:21-32)
- e) The mystery of the divinity of Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-3, vs.14)
- f) The mystery of the Rapture/translation of the church. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 & 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
- g) The mystery of the first coming of Christ, one of suffering. (1 Peter 1:11, Mark 8:31 & Isaiah 53:3)
- h) The mystery of the 2nd Coming of Christ. (**Revelation 1:7,** 19:11, vs.12-16)

1. King

Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the promise that God gave to king David. From David's own body, God would raise up a king, whose throne and rule would be forever (2 Samuel 7:8-17).

This promise will be fulfilled at the second coming of the Lord Jesus. The establishing of the kingdom, by the King, can be viewed in three stages.

- 1. The King came and announced the kingdom but was rejected. (Matthew 21:42-43)
- 2. The King declares the spiritual kingdom within us by his indwelling presence. (Luke 17:21, John 14:21-23)

3. The King, at his 2nd Coming, will restore the Davidic Monarchy in Himself, re-gather the nation of Israel and rule the whole earth for 1000 years. (Matthew 24:27-30, Acts 15:14-17, Revelation 20:1-10)

A. The King Foretold

2 Samuel 7:12, "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6-7, For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

B. The King's birth Announced

Luke 1:30-33, Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be

great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 2:8-11, Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

C. The King's Genealogy

Matthew 1:1, The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Luke 3:32-38.

D. The Kings Fulfilment of Prophesies

Micah 5:2, But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Isaiah 7:14, Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Jeremiah 31:15, Thus says the Lord: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."

Zechariah 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Compare the following scriptures when you have time:

Genesis 3:15 with Galatians 4:4,

Hosea 11:1 with Matthew 2:14-15,

Malachi 3:1 with Luke 7:24-27,

Psalms 2:7 with Matthew 3:17,

Psalms 41:9 with Luke 22:47-48,

Zechariah 11:12 with Matthew 26:15,

Isaiah 50:6 with Matthew 26:67,

Psalms 22:7 with Luke 23:35,

Psalms 22:17 with Matthew 27:35-36,

Psalms 69:21 with Matthew 27:34,

Psalms 34:20 with John 19: 32-36,

Psalms 16:10 and 49:15 with Mark 16:6-7